

terrors, phobias, screaming fits, tantrums, idiosyncrasies as regards food, obstinate refusal to be clean, thumb-sucking, masturbation, and so on and so forth. These are but the open indications of that intense turmoil of wishes and rages and fears, loves and hates, guilt and remorse, which goes on within the child's mind, and chiefly in the unconscious levels. After this period, however, the child's conflict becomes less intense, and he enters upon what Freud has called the *latency period*, in which overt sexual interests become less apparent, and the whole personality wears a rather more settled air.

It is not suggested that sexual interests die away altogether in the latency period. No one who has any intimate knowledge of children between the years from five to twelve could imagine that this was true. But they become relatively subdued. The differences between this period and the earlier phase may be roughly summarised as follows : (a) The child's sexual wishes towards his *parents* have undergone repression, so that he himself is no longer aware of their existence in * relation to his parents. (6) What sexual excitement he experiences is felt towards other children ; and even there the intensity of the emotions is damped down. Sexual play tends to be furtive and secret, since children are now fully aware that adults will not condone it. (c) The child has entered upon a serious and more or less successful struggle •against masturbation, which he usually manages to hide, if not to control altogether, (d) The phantasy life as a whole gradually tends to become repressed, and the child begins to concern himself much more with what is real and true. The typical attitude of the latency period is the " flight to reality "—a point which I shall have to elaborate further

in succeeding discussions.

After this brief general survey of the central psycho-logical situation of the young child, the phases of libidinal and ego development, the chief sources of intra-psychical conflict and the chief mechanisms, for solution of that conflict, I will now pass to a more detailed commentary on the actual material of *Sexuality*.